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OPEN MANAGEMENT GROUP DATA-DISTRIBUTION SERVICE (OMG-DDS) AS A DATA TRANSPORT FOR VEHICULAR INTEGRATION FOR C4ISR/EW INTEROPERABILITY (VICTORY) SERVICES

Leonard Elliott

Vehicle Electronics and Architecture

TARDEC

Warren, MI

UNCLASSIFIED: Distribution Statement A. Approved for public release.

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Report Documentation Page			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188		
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1. REPORT DATE 16 AUG 2012		2. REPORT TYPE Briefing		3. DATES COVERED 01-07-2012 to 01-08-2012	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE OPEN MANAGEMENT GROUP DATA-DISTRIBUTION SERVICE AS A DATA TRANSPORT FOR VEHICULAR INTEGRATION FOR C4ISR/EW INTEROPERABILITY SERVICES			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
			5b. GRANT NUMBER		
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S) Leonard Elliott			5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
			5e. TASK NUMBER		
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army TARDEC, 6501 East Eleven Mile Rd, Warren, Mi, 48397-5000			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER #23220		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army TARDEC, 6501 East Eleven Mile Rd, Warren, Mi, 48397-5000			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) TARDEC		
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) #23220		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Submitted to 2012 NDIA Ground Vehicle Systems Engineering and Technology Symposium August 14-16 Troy, Michigan					
14. ABSTRACT VICTORY is a U.S. Army initiative to improve upon current military ground vehicle electronics architecture by providing C4ISR/EW system interoperability and portability. VDM and OMG-DDS P/S solutions appear to be suitable for addressing integration problems which fall into the current scope of VICTORY.					
15. SUBJECT TERMS VICTORY data Messages, Publish subscribe, Open management Group					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Public Release	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 18	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

- VICTORY is a U.S. Army initiative to improve upon current military ground vehicle electronics architecture by providing C4ISR/EW system interoperability and portability.
- VICTORY Data-Messages (VDM) are VICTORY's customized publish-subscribe (P/S) messaging solution.
- OMG-DDS is an open-standard COTS P/S messaging solution.
- Investigate replacing VDM with OMG-DDS interfaces

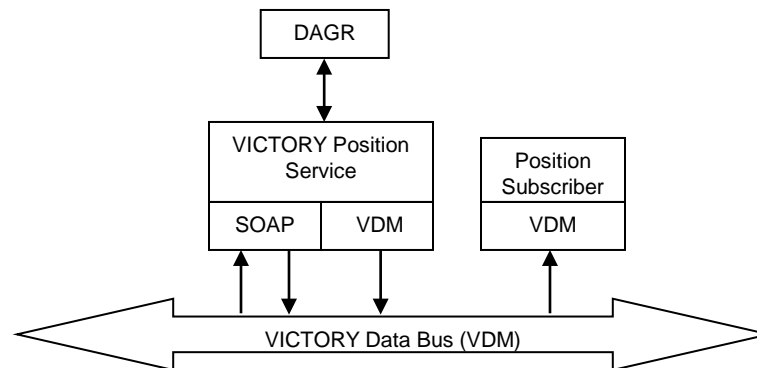


VICTORY Overview



- The VICTORY technical approach
 - Incorporate open-standards
 - Shared services (VICTORY services)
 - Data-bus centric (VICTORY Data-Bus [VDB])
- VICTORY Standards development
 - Working groups (government, industry)
 - Adopt-adapt-author methodology
- Current scope of VICTORY
 - No real-time applications
 - No safety critical applications
 - Intra-vehicle communication (i.e. high-availability)

- VICTORY core services (Position, Orientation, Direction-of-Travel, and Time)
- Service data interface
 - Publish data to VDB using available formats or VDMs
- Service management interface
 - Monitoring/control functions available via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) Remote Procedure Calls (RPC)





Publish-Subscribe Communication Overview



- Provides loose-coupling and scalability
- P/S communication implementation
 - Centralized broker
 - Multi-broker
 - Peer-to-peer
- P/S technologies generally provide API and/or wire protocol standards
 - API standard: code portability
 - Wire protocol standard: “on-the-wire” interoperability
- Integration pattern supported by many COTS messaging technologies



Publish-Subscribe Communication Overview



- Several COTS technologies supporting P/S:
 - Java Message Service (JMS): standard Java API, centralized or brokered topology
 - Advanced Message Queuing Protocol (AMQP): standard wire protocol, multi-brokered
 - OMG-DDS: standard API and wire protocol, peer-to-peer implementations
- OMG-DDS is a good candidate for on-vehicle COTS P/S solution
 - Data-Centric Publish Subscribe (DCPS) API standard
 - Real-Time Publish Subscribe (RTPS) wire protocol
 - Peer-to-peer implementation (middleware spawn threads in app)
 - Mechanisms for supporting real-time P/S



VICTORY Data Message (VDM)



- Customized messaging solution supporting P/S on VDB
 - Used for services with no standard data type/protocol (e.g. Time service uses NTP/PTP not VDM)
- Provides scalability and loose-coupling
 - Internet Group Management Protocol (IGMP) to manage subscriptions
 - UDP multicast for data distribution
- Quality of Service (QoS)
 - Differentiated Service Code Point (DSCP): 6-bit field in the IP header
 - Indicates traffic priority

VICTORY Data Message (VDM)

- Standard message features including sequence numbers, format indicators, identifiers, and timing information
- Binary header with and XML payload:

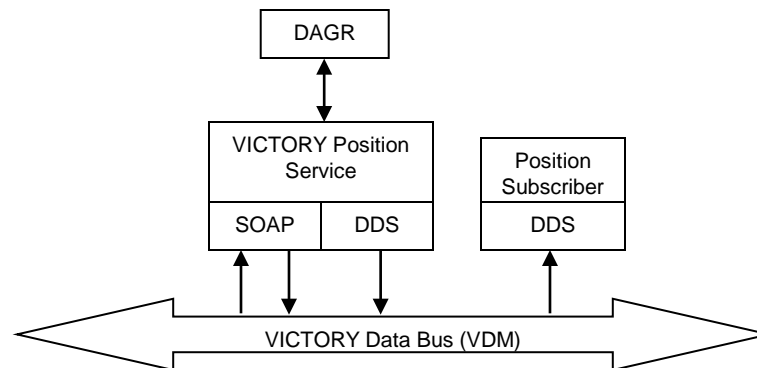
16-bits		16-bits	
8-bits	8-bits	8-bits	8-bits
VERSION			
VERSION		TIME INFO	
TIME INFO (CONTINUED)			
TIME INFO (CONTINUED)			
VDM SEQUENCE NUMBER			
INTERFACE ID			
VDM SIZE		VDM COUNT	
TYPE		OFFSET	
LENGTH		RESERVED	
		7 7 7 7	
TYPE		OFFSET	
LENGTH		RESERVED	
VICTORY XML PAYLOAD			

- VDM P-S Behavior (control via SOAP RPC)
 - Increase/decrease publishing frequency
 - Enable/disable publishing
 - Change multicast address and port for publishing
- TARDEC reference implementation
 - Standard POSIX libraries (e.g. sys/socket.h)
 - C++
 - Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) on x86_64
 - RHEL on i386.
 - Ubuntu on ARM Cortex-A8
- Good performance over high-availability network

- Open-Standard, COTS, real-time P/S, with multiple vendors.
- Extensive QoS for turning P-S behavior:
 - Deadline: The maximum time between data samples.
 - Durability: Previously published data can be stored and sent to late joining subscribers.
 - Lifespan: Specifies how long data sent by user application is considered valid.
 - Liveliness: Allows readers to detect when matching writers are no longer available.
 - Ownership: Specifies ownership of a Topic by a specific writer.
 - Reliability: Allows recovery of samples lost by the network.

OMG-DDS Insertion into VICTORY Services

- Convert VICTORY Position Service
 - Replace VDM interface with OMG-DDS
 - Test with multiple OMG-DDS implementations (RTI Connexst DDS 4.5f and PrismTech OpenSplice 6.1.1)
- Evaluate
 - Development effort
 - API completeness and conformance (i.e. vendor-specific code)
 - Interoperability



- Convert VICTORY XML Schemas (XSD) to OMG-DDS Interface Definition Language (IDL).

```
<xsd:simpleType name="latitudeBounds_t">
  <xsd:restriction base="xsd:double">
    <xsd:minInclusive value="-90"/>
    <xsd:maxInclusive value="90"/>
  </xsd:restriction>
</xsd:simpleType>

<xsd:simpleType name="longitudeBounds_t">
  <xsd:restriction base="xsd:double">
    <xsd:maxInclusive value="180"/>
    <xsd:minExclusive value="-180"/>
  </xsd:restriction>
</xsd:simpleType>

<xsd:complexType name="absolutePosition_t">
  <xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:element name="latitude"
      type="vmt:latitudeBounds_t"/>
    <xsd:element name="longitude"
      type="vmt:longitudeBounds_t"/>
    <xsd:element name="altitude"
      type="xsd:double"/>
    <xsd:element name="mgrs" type="xsd:string"
      minOccurs="0"/>
  </xsd:sequence>
</xsd:complexType>
```



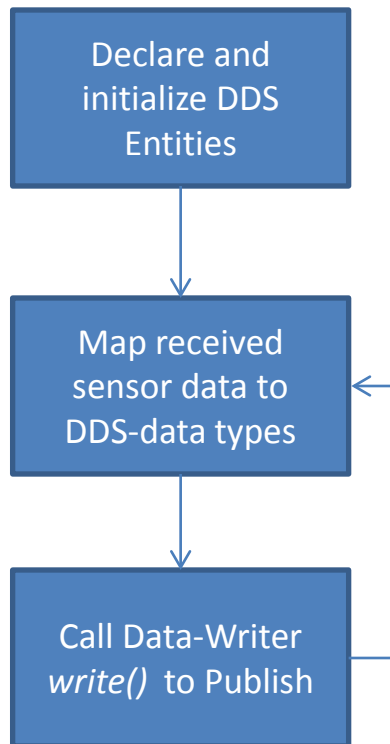
```
module VICTORY
{
  module Types
  {
    struct doubleMeasurement_t
    {
      double value;
      double uncertainty;
      boolean estimated;
      boolean valid;
    }; //@top-level false
    //
    // Military Grid Reference System
    //
    struct MgrsPos_t
    {
      string<10> gridZoneDesignator;
      long easting;
      long northing;
    }; //@top-level false

    struct AbsPos_t
    {
      doubleMeasurement_t latitude;
      doubleMeasurement_t longitude;
      doubleMeasurement_t altitude;
      boolean hasMgrs;
      MgrsPos_t mgrs;
    };
    #pragma keylist AbsPos_t
  }; //Types
}; //VICTORY
```

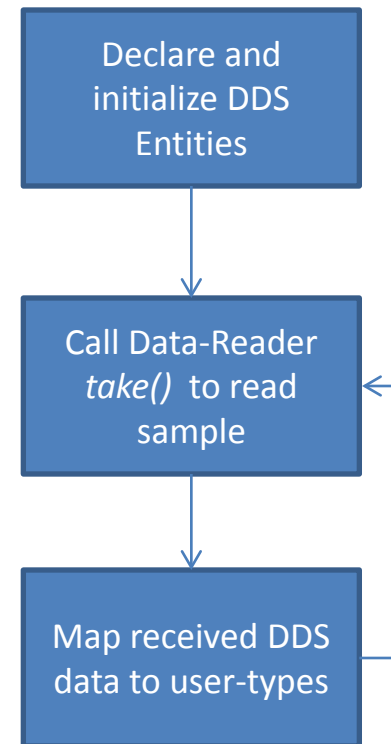
OMG-DDS Insertion into VICTORY Services

- Modify Position Service code to use OMG-DDS interface (several days of training and ~100 lines of code)

On Publisher (i.e. Position Service)



On Subscriber (i.e. Position Service Client)



OMG-DDS Insertion into VICTORY Services

- Tested all combinations of RTI and PrismTech for modified Position Service and Position Service Client.
- Default OMG-DDS QoS used (VDM behavioral equivalent):

QoS & Attributes	Writer	Reader
Deadline	Infinite	Infinite
Domain ID	0	0
Durability	Volatile	Volatile
Latency Budget	0 sec	0 sec
Liveliness duration	Infinite	Infinite
Liveliness kind	Automatic	Automatic
Ownership	Shared	Shared
Reliability	Reliable	Best Effort
Topic	Position	Position
Type	AbsPos_t	AbsPos_t

Code Modification Results

- Vendor specific code changes (3 statements)
 - Casting of generic data writer to type-specific data-writer
 - User defined type-support – no native *interface* support for C++
 - Disable default vendor-specific transport setting
- Example:

```
#ifdef RTI
ddsSpecificWriter =
    VICTORY::Types::AbsPos_tDataWriter::narrow(
        ddsDataWriter );
#endif

#ifdef PRISMTECH
ddsSpecificWriter = VICTORY::Types::
    AbsPos_tDataWriter::_narrow( ddsDataWriter
    );
#endif
```


Interoperability Results

- Applications on separate hosts worked out-of-the box
- Applications on same host required modification
 - RTI Connex DDS defaults to shared memory transport (fast)
 - Change transport to standard UDP transport:

```
#ifdef RTI
ddsDomPartQos.transport_builtin.mask =
    DDS_TRANSPORTBUILTIN_UDPv4;
#endif
```

VDM and OMG-DDS Comparison

- Features of VDM and OMG-DDS compared.

Aspect	VDM	OMG-DDS
COTS Available	No	Yes
Lines of Code	1500	100
Licensing Issues	No	Yes
Standard API	No	Yes
Standard Wire Protocol	Yes	Yes
Unbrokered Architecture	Yes	Yes

- Notable Issues:
 - VDM Development complexity
 - Licensing OMG-DDS (based on # developers, computing platform, tools, etc).

Conclusion

- VDM and OMG-DDS P/S solutions appear to be suitable for addressing integration problems which fall into the **current** scope of VICTORY.
- OMG-DDS is a powerful tool
 - Built on open-standards
 - Multiple vendor implementations
 - Well-supported API and wire protocol
 - May enable more capabilities on VDB
- Continue to investigate
 - VDM versus OMG-DDS cost for vehicle program
 - Performance
 - OMG-DDS advanced features and use cases
- The VICTORY Work Group should consider adopting OMG-DDS as an incremental enhancement or real-time extension should the need for more complex P/S behavior arise.